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Letter dated 20 February 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 15 February 2018 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, which includes the communiqué of the 752nd meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held on 13 February 2018, and the decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States dated 4 February 2018, imposing sanctions on 19 individuals in Guinea-Bissau (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

Letter dated 15 February 2018 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you with regard to the current situation in Guinea-Bissau and our efforts to support the search for a lasting solution to the protracted crisis facing the country.

Against the backdrop of a continued stalemate, the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) decided, on 4 February 2018, to impose sanctions on those impeding the search for a solution. At its 752nd meeting, held on 13 February 2018, the African Union Peace and Security Council endorsed the measures taken by ECOWAS to impose individual sanctions and called on the United Nations Security Council to do the same, so as to restore democratic governance and ensure respect for the rule of law in the country.

I am forwarding herewith the above-mentioned Peace and Security Council communiqué of 13 February 2018 (see enclosure I) as well as the ECOWAS decision of 4 February 2018 imposing sanctions aimed at restoring democratic governance and ensuring respect for the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau (see enclosure II). I would be most grateful if the present letter and its enclosures could be urgently transmitted to the Security Council for its information and action as appropriate.

I look forward to the Security Council's full support to the ECOWAS-led efforts and endorsement of the decision adopted by ECOWAS.

(*Signed*) Moussa **Faki Mahamat**

Enclosure I

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 752nd meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held on 13 February 2018

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 752nd meeting, held on 13 February 2018, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui and the statement made by Togo, in its capacity as the Chair of the Authority of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

2. **Recalls** its previous communiques and press statements on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, in particular, Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR.(DCXXXIV)] adopted at its 734th meeting, held on 14 November 2017, urging the Guinea Bissau stakeholders to work resolutely for the effective implementation of the Conakry Agreement of 14 October 2016 and the Bissau Roadmap, with a view to ending the current crisis in their country, as well as calling the political leadership of Guinea Bissau, including the President of the Republic, to demonstrate utmost restraint, statesmanship and high spirit of responsibility and comply with the country's constitution, with a view to identifying a quick way out of the current political deadlock;

3. **Recalls** the decision of the 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held from 28 to 29 January 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which called on Bissau-Guinean stakeholders to abide by their commitments so as to resolve the crisis and ensure a successful and timely conduct of the upcoming 2018 legislative elections, and endorsed the decision adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS on the margins of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27 January 2018 on the situation in Guinea-Bissau;

4. **Further recalls** Article 16 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the relevant provisions of the AU Constitutive Act and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;

5. **Reiterates its deep concern** over the continued political standoff in the country coupled with the persistent socio-economic difficulties that the current crisis has caused to the people of Guinea Bissau, as well as the paralysis affecting the Government institutions and the People's National Assembly;

6. **Commends** the efforts deployed by ECOWAS to finding a lasting solution to the current crisis in Guinea Bissau and **welcomes** the Decision A/Dec.2.01/2018 Imposing Individual Sanctions Aimed at Restoring Democratic Governance and Ensuring Respect for the Rule of Law in Guinea Bissau issued by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government on 4 February 2018, following the assessment mission of the High Level delegation to Guinea-Bissau, conducted from 31 January to 1 February 2018;

7. **Reaffirms** its commitment to continue to closely follow all political developments and to support ECOWAS in its efforts to ensure a swift resolution of the protracted crisis in Guinea-Bissau. Furthermore, Council **reaffirms** its readiness to assist the parties in Guinea Bissau in their search for a rapid settlement of the

current crisis, in strict respect of the constitutional and legal provisions, as well as in the light of all agreements signed to date;

8. **Urges** all Bissau-Guinean parties to refrain from actions or statements that could escalate tensions and incite violence. In the same vein, Council **underscores** the need for the security and armed forces of Guinea Bissau to refrain from interfering in this political and institutional crisis and to continue to uphold the country's constitution;

9. **Appeals** to all Member States and partners to financially support the continuation of the mandate of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) operations in Guinea-Bissau, whose mandate has been extended to 31 March 2018, until the necessary capacitation of the national security forces of Guinea Bissau is completed. In this regard, Council **requests** the AU Commission, in consultations with ECOWAS, to mobilize financial resources to support ECOMIB operations;

10. **Decides** to endorse the measures taken by ECOWAS in its 4 February 2018 decision, including sanctions against "political obstructionists" who are hampering the process of ending the crisis in the country. In this regard, Council **requests** the AU Commission to coordinate with the ECOWAS Commission, in order to ensure effective implementation of these measures. Furthermore, Council **calls** on the international community to extend full cooperation with ECOWAS and support the implementation of the sanction measures;

11. **Requests** the United Nations Security Council to endorse the PSC Communique endorsing the ECOWAS decision, in order to ensure its effective implementation;

12. **Further requests** the AU Chairperson to transmit the communiqué to the UN Secretary-General, through him to the UN Security Council and to request that it be circulated as an official UN Security Council document;

13. **Also requests** the AU Commission to continue to provide regular updates to Council on the evolution of the situation in Guinea-Bissau;

14. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the situation.

Enclosure II

[Original: English and French]

ECOWAS Decision A/DEC.2.01/2018 imposing individual sanctions aimed at restoring democratic governance and ensuring respect for the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 11 and 12 of the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security signed in Lome on 10 December 1999;

MINDFUL of the ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles adopted in Abuja on 6 July 1991;

MINDFUL of the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance signed in Dakar on 21 December 2001;

MINDFUL of the principles set out in the OAU Solemn Declaration on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa adopted in Abuja on 8 and 9 May 2000, and Decision AHG. DEC.142 (xxv) on the framework for OAU's reaction to unconstitutional change of government adopted in Algiers in July 1999;

CONSIDERING that the Guinea Bissau authorities have endorsed the Bissau and Conakry Agreements to be implemented to ensure return to constitutional and democratic order in the Republic of Guinea Bissau;

CONSIDERING that despite the continued mediation efforts no significant progress has been made in the implementation of the agreements;

TAKING DUE ACCOUNT of the final communiqué of the extraordinary session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27 January 2018, in the margins of the 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union;

RECALLING that the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, at its Extraordinary Session held on 27 January 2018, invited the Guinea Bissau parties to implement the Conakry Agreement, failing which individual and collective sanctions would be imposed to end the crisis in Guinea Bissau;

RECALLING also that the Authority instructed the President of the Commission to apply the sanctions and put in place a committee, comprising Togo, Guinea and the ECOWAS Commission, to monitor the implementation of the sanctions;

NOTING that the Conakry Agreement has not been implemented and hence the need to impose sanctions on defaulters;

DESIROUS of creating favourable conditions for the resumption of dialogue among Guinea Bissau stakeholders, as well as for the restoration of democratic governance and respect for the rule of law in Guinea Bissau;

DECIDES

Article 1 Imposition of sanctions

By virtue of this Decision, sanctions are imposed on the following persons:

- BRAIMA CAMARA
- RUI DIA DE SOUSA
- SOARES SAMBU
- ABEL DA SILVA GOMES
- MANUEL NASCIMENTO LOPES
- EDUARDO MAMADU BALDE
- MARIA AURORA ABISSA SANO
- FLORENTINO MENDES PEREIRA
- ORLANDO MENDES VIEGAS
- CERTORIO BIOTE
- DOMINGOS QUADE
- CARLITOS BARAI
- DOMINGOS MALU
- ANTONIO SEDJA MAN
- BACARI BIAI
- BOTCHE CANDE
- HERSON GOUDJABI VAZ
- VICTOR MADINGA
- FERNANDO VAZ

Article 2 Sanctions

The sanctions stated hereunder contained in Supplementary Act A/SA.13/02/12 of 17 February 2012 on sanctions against Member States which fail to honour their obligations to ECOWAS and Article 45 of the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance are imposed on the afore-mentioned persons:

a) suspension from participation in Community activities,

b) travel ban and denial of visas for these persons and their families,

c) freeze of the financial assets of these persons and their families wherever they may be.

Article 3 Notification of sanctions

1. The President of the Commission shall notify the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the African Union Peace and Security Council of the Decision for any appropriate action.

2. The President of the Commission shall equally notify Member States, Community Institutions, European Union, International Organisation of the Francophonie, CPLP and United Nations of the Decision and shall request the support of these organisations in implementation of the sanctions.

Article 4 Review of the list of persons under sanctions

The committee monitoring implementation of the sanctions shall reserve the right to review the list of persons placed under sanctions based on changes in the situation.

Article 5 Entry into force and publication

The Decision, which shall enter into force upon signature, shall be published by the Commission in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty days of its signing. It shall equally be published by each Member States in its national Gazette within the same timeframe, following notification by the Commission.

DONE AT LOME, THIS 04 DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018

IN ONE SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES

ALL THREE TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC

H.E. Mr. FAURE ESSOZIMNA GNASSINGBE
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY